

III. REMARKS

1. Claims 1-16 are pending in this application.
2. Claims 1-16 are not anticipated under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by Storace et al., U.S. Patent 4,831,554 ("Storace"). Claim 1 recites a franking meter constructed to calculate and apply shipping charges indicium onto mail items or labels and a user interface for entering address data and selecting addresses. Claim 1 also recites a digital printer capable of printing shipping charges indicium and address data on a mail item or label. Storace does not disclose or suggest a franking meter capable of printing postage indicia and address data on a mail item or label as claimed by Applicants.

Storace discloses an electronic postage meter for printing postage indicia having a postage value and a message to be printed in the postage indicia (Abstract; Col. 8, L. 19-21). The message is stored in a memory of the postage meter and allows the user to provide its own advertising message or a third party advertising message within the postage indicia (Col. 3, L. 22-25; Col. 9, L. 37-43). Storace discloses a message input device (616) in the input system (606) of the meter. The message input (616) is coupled to the communications control (610) to direct the application of a request to the data center to change the message that is printed by the postage and message printer (604) of the postage meter system (Col. 8, L. 49-57). The message input (616) of Storace may be a keyboard allowing the user to directly input a message or to select a message from a plurality of messages stored at the data center (Col. 8, L. 65-68). Storace also discloses a postage meter routine incorporating tests that check to see if the user has made a request for a message change (Col. 9, L. 13-20). The data center may also

initiate a change in the message stored n the meter (Col. 9, L. 52-59). There is simply no disclosure or suggestion in Storace of the postage meter printing addresses that are separate from the postage indicia on a mail item or label.

The message of Storace is an advertisement message, not an address (Col. 3, L. 22-25; Col. 9, L. 37-43). In addition, the user of the postage meter in Storace must send a request to the data center in order to change the advertising message that is printed with the postage indicia (Col. 8, L. 49-57). This is contrary to what is claimed in Applicant's claim 1. Claim 1 calls for a user interface for entering address data and selecting addresses and a digital printer capable of printing address data on a mail item or label. There is no disclosure or suggestion of the user in Storace being able to input address data into the system of Storace. Fig. 2 does not disclose address date Box 49 relates solely to "Postage Printing." Box 34 is non-volatile memory for Postal Registers and does not provide a shipping or address function as suggested by the Examiner. Box 32 is memory for storing and forwarding "working data" in accordance "with the calculation being performed by the CPU 28." (Col. 4, lines 56-60.) Nothing here suggests storing address data. Fig. 7 does not disclose address date Ref 608 is "postage input." Box 610 is "Communication Control", but no reference is made to an external database that is an address database or contains address data. Thus, claim 1 is patentable over Storace under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as Storace fails to disclose or suggest the features of claim 1.

With respect to claim 2, Storace does not disclose or suggest an address function. Fig. 4 is the "Communication Routine" for

funds transfer and does not disclose or suggest anything related to a database of addresses.

With respect to claim 3, Storace is silent as to destination information, routing, delivery and tracking codes. Col. 5, line 20 makes no such reference.

Similar observations can be made with respect to the remaining claims.

Claim 10 of Applicant's invention recites selecting at least one address from an internal address database for application to said mail item and verifying the accuracy of said selected address. Claim 10 also recites correcting the address (if the address information is inaccurate), entering the corrected address in the internal database, and calculating the shipping charges and printing the mail item or label with the address data. Storage fails to disclose or suggest the features of Applicants' claim 10.

As discussed above, there is no disclosure or suggestion in Storage of printing address data on a mail item or label as called for in claim 10. In addition, there is no disclosure or suggestion whatsoever, of the system in Storace having an internal address database nonetheless, verifying the address data as called for in claim 10. Therefore, claim 10 is patentable over Storage under 35 U.S.C. 102(e).

Claims 2-9 and 11-16 are patentable over Storace by reason of their respective dependencies.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record, and are in

proper form for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

Respectfully submitted,



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12 OCTOBER 2005

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